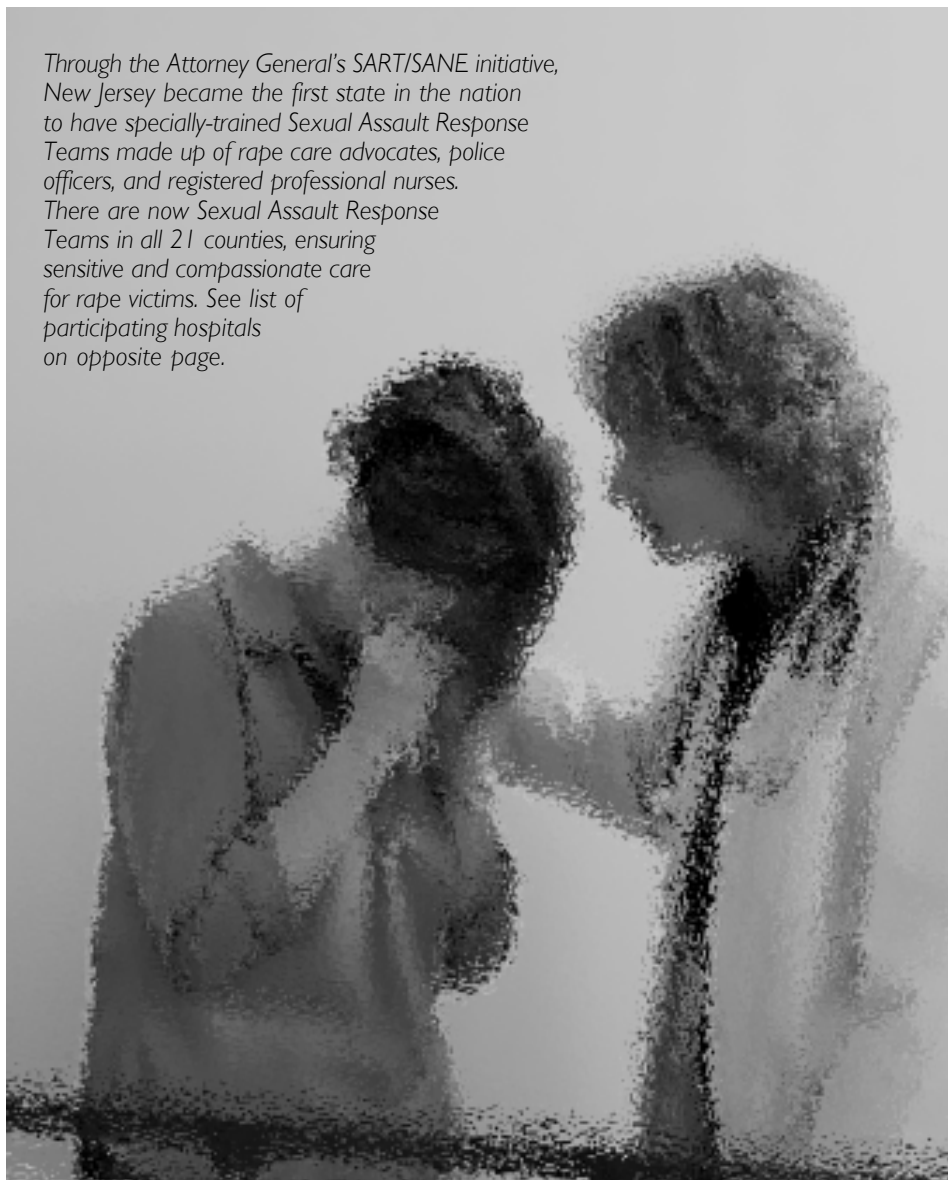


Helping Survivors of Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence

SART/SANE Puts Sexual Assault Response Teams in all 21 Counties; Law Enforcement Training Focuses on Handling of Domestic Violence

Through the Attorney General's SART/SANE initiative, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to have specially-trained Sexual Assault Response Teams made up of rape care advocates, police officers, and registered professional nurses. There are now Sexual Assault Response Teams in all 21 counties, ensuring sensitive and compassionate care for rape victims. See list of participating hospitals on opposite page.



Sexual Assault

While the number of rapes and attempted rapes in New Jersey dropped by five percent in 2003, that trend probably did not offer much solace for the 1,300 persons who were victimized.

In the aftermath of being sexually assaulted, most survivors find themselves confronting a host of difficult — often overwhelming — legal, medical and psychological needs, and they require help.

Too often in the past, systems designed to help the survivors of rape have inadvertently created more stress in their lives by failing to achieve a needed balance between compassionate care and effective law enforcement follow-up.

All that changed in 2003-2004 with the announcement of New Jersey's first state-wide law enforcement initiative dedicated solely to ensuring compassionate, coordinated services for the survivors of sexual assault — the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) initiative.

Under the initiative, special Sexual Assault Response Teams are now stationed in all New Jersey counties. The teams are located within the 21 respective County Prosecutors Offices, and are made up of rape care advocates, law enforcement officers and registered professional nurses who serve as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE).

The SART/SANE concept is founded entirely on a "team" approach, and one of its chief objectives is to ensure that every victim of sexual assault has access to quality health care treatment in a timely fashion. Victims no longer must wait hours for care in busy — often overcrowded — hospital emergency rooms. Instead, they are provided quick and thorough care in well equipped, specialized facilities.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners work

collaboratively with police officers and rape care advocates to provide the best services available. They are specially trained to provide comprehensive and sensitized care, while also ensuring that potential evidence is collected in a manner that is timely, precise, and in keeping with law enforcement protocols.

Rape Care Advocates are trained to provide support services for the victim through the medical and forensic examination, and beyond. Under the SART/SANE philosophy, the role of Rape Care Advocates is viewed as crucial to the post-victimization healing process. The job of a Rape Care Advocate is to focus solely on the needs of the sexual assault victim, whether those needs require crisis intervention services, counseling, referral to social service agencies or information on other available options.

An equally vital goal of SART/SANE is to enable law enforcement to obtain the evidence required to successfully investigate and prosecute sex offenders. Police assigned to Sexual Assault Response Teams receive specialized training in the area of investigating sex crimes. At the same time, the SART/SANE approach emphasizes the need to create an environment in which women can feel comfortable while taking part in the essential — but sometimes difficult and emotional — process of working with law enforcement investigators and prosecutors.

The guiding ethos is to try to eliminate any fears a rape survivor may harbor about being victimized a second time through interaction with police, prosecutors or others that is — or may seem to the survivor — insensitive, inappropriate, accusatory, or otherwise negative. The benefits are two-fold. First, it ensures that survivors will receive the kind of compassionate treatment they have a right to expect. Second, it often helps increase the comfort level, and the resolve, of survivors, making them better able to assist law enforcement in prosecuting their attackers.

Since its inception, the Attorney General's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy has provided more than \$3 million statewide for SART/SANE programs. As of the end of 2004, there were upwards of 200 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners working out of 46 New Jersey hospitals. Combining 2003 and 2004, the SART/SANE program has helped approximately

1,000 rape survivors deal with the aftermath of their victimization.

The New Jersey SART/SANE initiative began as a pilot program in Monmouth County in 1996. The Legislature subsequently required all counties to institute a SART/SANE program. The Division of Criminal Justice within the Attorney General's Office oversees SART/SANE on a statewide basis, but each County Prosecutors Office is ultimately responsible for maintaining its own SART/SANE program.

Domestic Violence

Consistent with its commitment to addressing all forms of violence against women, the Attorney General's Office also provides specialized training sessions for law enforcement personnel in dealing with domestic violence and related issues.

Twice a year, through its Division of Criminal Justice, the Attorney General's Office provides advanced, three-day training courses that help give law enforcement personnel a deeper understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, knowledge of related laws, and a thorough grasp of the elements required to effectively investigate and prosecute domestic violence cases.

As is the case with sexual assault, domestic violence is a major priority of the Attorney General. Domestic violence puts lives in danger, and tears at the inner-fabric of families by creating an atmosphere of fear and isolation. In New Jersey alone, acts of domestic violence impact on an estimated 80,000 people each year — most of them women, children, and the aged. In one year (2002), 52 people died in New Jersey as the result of domestic violence, a 30 percent increase over the prior year.

Employing actors and skilled instructors, the three-day training course explores the full scope of the domestic violence problem. Moreover, it provides specialized instruction to law enforcement personnel at every level in dealing with a domestic-violence-related incident — from the initial call to police and techniques for investigating the matter, to recognizing the legal issues involved and prosecuting formal charges.

Victims of domestic violence in New Jersey are encouraged to call the New Jersey Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-572-SAFE.

Statewide SART/ SANE Program — Participating Hospitals by County

Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic City Medical Ctr., Atlantic City Atlantic Kessler, Hammonton Atlantic Shore Memorial, Somers Point
Bergen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Englewood, Englewood Hackensack, Hackensack Holy Name, Teaneck Pascack Valley, Westwood Valley, Ridgewood
Burlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Ctr., Willingboro Virtua Hospital, Marlton
Camden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtua Hospital, Mount Holly Cooper Health Systems, Camden Kennedy Health Systems, Stratford Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Ctr., Camden
Cape May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burdette Tomlin, Cape May Court House
Cumberland Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Medical Ctr., Vineland Clara Maass, Belleville Hospital of the University of Medicine & Dentistry, Newark Newark Beth Israel, Newark St. Barnabas, Livingston
Gloucester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kennedy Memorial, Washington Twp. Underwood-Memorial, Woodbury
Hudson Hunterdon Mercer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christ, Jersey City Hunterdon Medical Ctr., Flemington Capital Health System-Mercer Campus, Trenton Capital Health System-Helene Fuld, Trenton Princeton Medical Ctr., Princeton Robert Wood Johnson, Hamilton
Middlesex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middlesex County Public Health Department, Edison Robert Wood Johnson, New Brunswick
Monmouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bayshore Community, Holmdel CentraState Medical Ctr., Freehold Jersey Shore Medical Ctr., Neptune Monmouth Medical Ctr., Long Branch Riverview Medical Ctr., Red Bank
Morris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chilton Memorial, Pompton Plains Morristown Memorial, Morristown St. Claire's, Denville St. Claire's, Dover
Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Medical Ctr., Toms River Kimball Medical Ctr., Lakewood Brick Hospital, Brick Southern Ocean Community, Manahawkin
Passaic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Joseph's Hospital, Paterson The General Hospital, Passaic
Salem Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Medical Ctr., Vineland Somerset Medical Ctr., Somerville Women's Health & Counseling Ctr., Somerville
Sussex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newton Memorial Hospital, Newton Sussex Hospital, Sussex
Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield Overlook Hospital, Summit Rahway Hospital, Rahway Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth
Warren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warren Hospital, Phillipsburg Hackettstown Community Hospital, Hackettstown